

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 447.205, the Georgia Department of Community Health is required to give public notice of any significant proposed change in its methods and standards for setting payment rates for services.

### **NURSING HOME SERVICES**

Effective for services provided on and after July 1, 2006 and subject to payment at fee for service rates, the Department is proposing to modify the payment method for nursing home services as follows:

- The 2005 cost report, using the reporting format and underlying instructions established by the Department, will be used to determine a facility's allowable cost that will be the basis for computing a rate.
- The growth allowance used to compute reimbursement rates will be 0.0%.
- The cost of a facility's participation in the Quality Improvement Program will be considered in the payment methodology.

The purpose of these changes is to more accurately match payments to the level of services being provided. These changes are estimated to increase annual expenditures by approximately \$52,013,690 in total funds; \$20,030,472 in state funds. A summary of the proposed rates may be obtained by written request to the Department of Community Health, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

### **HEALTH CHECK SERVICES**

Effective for services provided on and after July 1, 2006 and subject to payment at fee for service rates, the Department is proposing to modify the payment rate for health check services for children ages 0 to 8 from \$55.38 to \$67.38 per visit. The purpose of this change is to more accurately match payments to the level of services being provided. This change is estimated to increase expenditures in State Fiscal Year 2007 by approximately \$882,000 in total funds; \$339,000 in state funds. The impact on expenditures should be lower in subsequent years due to the annualized participation of most children in the care management program.

This public notice is available for review at each county Department of Family and Children Services office. Citizens wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so before June 8, 2006, to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 38406, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.

Comments submitted will be available for review by the public at the Department of Community Health, Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in Room 4074, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

An opportunity for public comment will be held on June 8, 2006 at 12:00 p.m. in conjunction with the June meeting of the Board of Community Health. Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during the meeting should call (404) 656-4479. The Board will vote on the proposed changes after comments have been received.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 11th DAY OF MAY, 2006**

**Rhonda M. Medows, M.D., Commissioner**